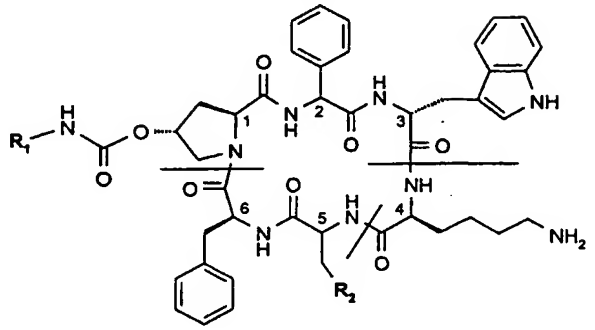
CLAIMS

1. A process for producing a compound of formula I

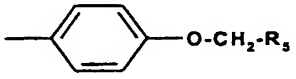


I

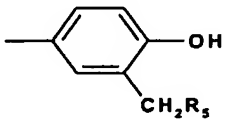
wherein

R_1 is $-C_{2-6}$alkylene-NR_3R_4, -C_{2-6}alkylene–guanidine or- C_{2-6}alkylene-COOH wherein each of R_3 and R_4 independently is H, C_{1-4}alkyl, ω-hydroxy-C_{2-4}alkylene or acyl or R_3 and R_4 form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached a heterocyclic group which may comprise a further heteroatom, and

R_2 is Z_1-CH_2-R_5, $-CH_2$-CO-O-CH_2-R_5,



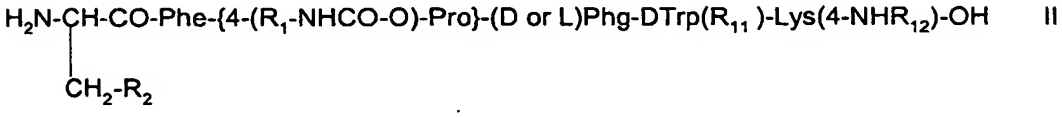
or



wherein Z_1 is O or S and R_5 is optionally substituted phenyl,

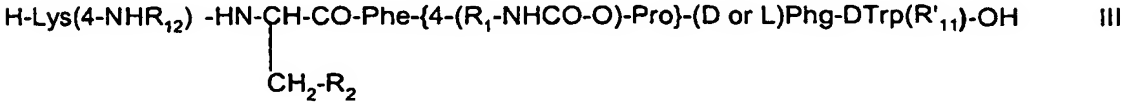
or a salt thereof,

comprising cyclizing a linear somatostatin analogue of formula II



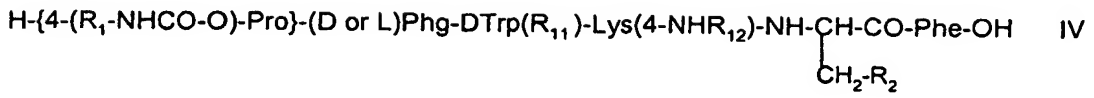
II

or of formula III



III

or of formula IV



IV

wherein R_1 and R_2 are as defined above,

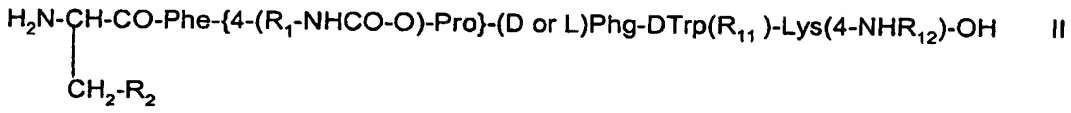
each of R_{11} and R_{12} , independently, is an amino protecting group

whereby when R_1 comprises a terminal NH_2, this terminal NH_2 is also protected by an amino protecting group,

and where required removing the protecting group(s),

and recovering a compound of formula I thus obtained in free form or in salt form.

2. A process according to claim 1 comprising cyclizing a linear somatostatin analogue of formula II



II

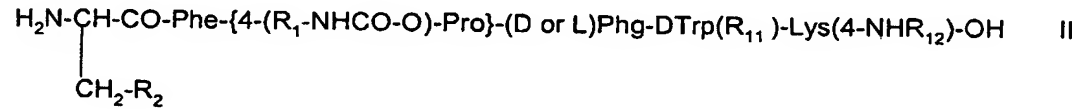
wherein R_1 is $-CH_2-CH_2-NR_3R_4$, R_2 is 4-benzyloxy-phenyl, and R_3, R_4, R_{11} and R_{12} are as defined in claim 1,

whereby when R_1 comprises a terminal NH_2, this terminal NH_2 is also protected by an amino protecting group,

and where required removing the protecting group(s),

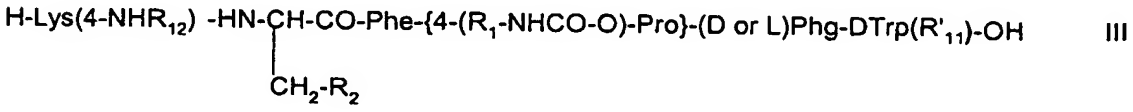
and recovering a compound of formula I thus obtained in free form or in salt form wherein R_1 is $-CH_2-CH_2-NR_3R_4$ and R_2 is 4-benzyloxy-phenyl.

3. A compound of formula II



II

or of formula III



III

or of formula IV

H-{4-(R_1-NHCO-O)-Pro}-(D or L)Phg-DTrp(R_{11})-Lys(4-NHR_{12})-NH-CH(-CH_2-R_2)-CO-Phe-OH IV

wherein R_1 and R_2 are as defined in claim 1,
each of R_{11} and R_{12}, independently, is an amino protecting group
whereby when R_1 comprises a terminal NH_2, this terminal NH_2 may also be protected by an amino protecting group,
or a salt thereof.

4. A compound of formula II according to claim 3 wherein R_1 is $-CH_2-CH_2-NR_3R_4$, R_2 is 4-benzyloxy-phenyl and each of R_{11} and R_{12} , independently, is an amino protecting group, whereby when R_1 comprises a terminal NH_2, this terminal NH_2 may also be protected by an amino protecting group, or a salt thereof.

5. A compound of formula II according to claim 3 which is selected from H-Tyr(Bzl)-Phe-(2S,4R)-4-(Boc-NH-CH_2-CH_2-NH-CO-O)-Pro-DPhg-DTrp(Boc)-Lys(Boc)-OH,
H-Tyr(Bzl)-Phe-(2S,4R)-4-(Boc-NH-CH_2-CH_2-NH-CO-O)-Pro-Phg-DTrp-Lys(Boc)-OH and
H-Tyr(Bzl)-Phe-(2S,4R)-4-(Boc-NH-CH_2-CH_2-NH-CO-O)-Pro-Phg-D-Trp(Boc)Lys(Boc)-OH or a salt thereof.

6. A process for the production of a compound of formula II, III or IV as defined in claim 3, comprising linking together by an amide bond two peptide units, each of them containing at least one amino acid in protected or unprotected form, wherein the amide bond is in such a way that the desired amino acid sequence as defined in formula II, III or IV is obtained, and where required removing at least one protecting group,

and recovering a compound of formula II, III or IV thus obtained in free form or in salt form.